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A S C E N S I O N.

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P O E M.

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T H E
A S C E N S I O N.

THE Son I sing returning
From earth to heaven, after
The vengeance bearing, doom'd to
Mankind, till God recall'd him.

Say, heav'nly Spirit ! thou that
Within me breathest knowledge
And rage cœlestial, say what
Avail'd with God again to
Restore his banish'd offspring ?
Unseen and unapproach'd,
Amidst a cloud of darkness
Which ever hangs in heaven,

B

In

In close abode The Godhead
 His empire holds; thence over
 The earth and all things stretching
 His power unbounded. Hither
 Around this hallow'd darkness
 The Highest call'd his angels,
 And thus his will unfolding
 With words began.—Ye angels,
 The curse entail'd by Adam
 On all his race, with anguish
 My Son beheld, and led by
 A love unequall'd, ransom'd
 The forfeit, undergoing
 What man deserv'd. He quitted
 His princely rank, the heavens
 Forsook, became an earth-born,
 Disarm'd

Disarm'd himself against those
Rebellious spirits—those whom
In battle fierce he routed.
Around him soon these spirits
Their snares beset, and practis'd
Whatever hell could counsel
To over-reach or frighten.
The seed of Abraham also,
Whom unsuspecting Satan
Disloyal turn'd, united
In bitterest hatred, mischief
On mischief heaping, even
As like the worst to end him.
And yet throughout, though under
This weight of evil, steadfast
He stood, without a murmur.

Before

Before untry'd I lov'd him,
I felt a father's fondness,
But now his virtue claims it.
Again a God, releas'd from
His earthly yoke, now only
He waits our will. Go Raphael
And Gabriel, go, and quick our
Acquittal take. Ye heralds,
Through all the climes of heaven
Make known our charge. Thus spoke the
Supreme. Away then Raphael
And Gabriel went. Away too,
As busy bees outgoing
In every way to gather
In store the winter's forage,
Outflew the heralds, bearing

Abroad

Abroad these welcome tidings.
 When lo ! the heavens deck in
 Their gayest drefs all changing ;
 The gates self-loofening open
 Their wideft folds ; and thither
 From ev'ry fide the angels
 On winged fpeed go hieing.
 Arriv'd like lightning earthwards
 Each darts his eye, then hafty
 Renews his wing acrofs the
 Abyfs etherial, trailing
 Along a length of followers.
 Meanwhile the angels Raphel
 And Gabriel finding Jefus
 Among the faints alighted,
 To all invifible only

C

Himself,

Himself, and whispering told him
 What God commanded. Soon as
 The Son beheld and heard them,
 With sudden bound he like an
 Outspreading eagle sprung from
 The earth aloft and upwards
 Above the clouds went winding,
 Aghast the saints stood seiz'd by
 Amaze and gaping wonder;
 Till chang'd, as men becoming
 Array'd in white apparel,
 The angels thus address'd them;
 Ye Galileans, grieve not
 Because your master leaves you,
 For him hereafter down shall
 Ye see descending, such as

He

He went. Thus spoke the angels,
 Then vanish'd, following Jesus,
 And overtook him crowded
 With spirits thick already
 Aside the steep, which heav'n
 Outskirts, ascending. Full of
 New strength the gates they heed not,
 But high o'erwinging over
 The lofty wall, and blended
 In wild confusion, higher
 Or lower undistinguish'd,
 They upwards throng about their
 Beloved Prince, some going
 Before, some following, others
 Abreast. By night as gazing
 We see the moon along with

The

The stars around her, climbing
 The vaulted azure; thus the
 Messiah seem'd, and angels,
 Their thoughtless way still urging
 Tumultuous, unexpected
 A bursting noise alarm'd them,
 That loud re-bellow'd rolling
 Along like distant thunder,
 And shook the skies. When sudden
 Before the throne o'ershadow'd
 The ground celestial upwards
 Arose, and moulding strangely
 Became a pile theatric,
 Of size immense; like half the
 Bespangled roof, which nightly
 O'erhangs the earth, upturned;
 And

And feat above feat higher
 And higher rises many
 A row outspreading outwards.
 In close array then also
 His throng attendant, quick the
 Messiah rang'd and led them
 In flow procession, all to
 The sound of music winging,
 Himself advancing foremost
 Alone; behind him follow
 Half-round th' archangels; after
 The less and less distinguish'd
 In round without round, making
 A compass vast. Now over
 The new rais'd fabric, hung on
 Their pinions quivering, down the

D

Procession

Proceſſion drops. When muttering
 Again returns the noiſe and
 Again re-bellowing louder
 And louder burſts. Again too
 The heavens ſhook, and ſlowly
 The gloom, which overhanging
 Enſhrines the Godhead, backwards
 Withdraws, and leaves him throned
 In all his glories, darting
 Such beams as even dazzled
 The very angels. Often
 The ſummer ſun o'ercaſt in
 His noontide height, thus gulleth
 A world of light unclouding;
 But yet far brighter ſhone the
 Almighty. Now as ſoon as
 The

The Father glanc'd his offspring,
 His countenance mellow'd mild as
 An harvest evening. Now too
 With arms outstretch'd he rises,
 And like a widow'd mother,
 That yearning runs to welcome
 Her only child, whom many
 A day unseen, the sudden
 Beholds approach her threshold ;
 Thus hasten'd God, and clasping
 His son, his first-born, close to
 His bosom snatch'd him. Sometimes
 An April morning, after
 A night tempestuous follows
 Serene and smiling, gladdens
 Again the earth, when ready

Awake

Awake the birds fit straining
 On every thorn, each wildly
 Its utmost song. Thus heaven
 Now seem'd, and hallelujahs
 In shouts begun saluting
 The Son restored. Welcome,
 They sung, most high, most mighty,
 Man's kind deliverer. Welcome
 Again, thrice welcome safe to
 Thy old abode. For ever
 Thy long forsaken principedom
 Enjoy regain'd. For ever
 As now vouchsafe, Messiah!
 Thy love, thyself among us.



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THE following Poem was made as
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“ § *There were several Reasons, which con-*
“ *curred to determine the Judges not to*
“ *give the Premium last Year to any of the*
“ *Candidates.*”

§ Extract of a Letter to the Author from Dr. Colman,
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